

For example, H.R. 2392 takes important steps to enhance Congressional oversight by requiring each agency that participates in the SBIR program to submit to Congress a performance plan consistent with the Government Performance and Results Act.

Next, the Small Business Administration will be required to maintain an electronic database that will enable Congress, the Administration, and participating agencies to accurately evaluate the program's performance.

In that same light of evaluation, H.R. 2392 calls for the National Research Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the SBIR program. This review follows up on the earlier report done by the NRC at the request of the Science Committee, on how best to evaluate federal research and development. The SBIR study should use that report as its guideline in developing its evaluation methods.

Finally, the bill also allows for awards to exceed the Phase I and Phase II caps on time and duration, provided that the awarding agency justifies such action to the Administration. Preference is to be given to small businesses that have commitments for second and third phase funding from sources outside the SBIR program. This provision improves the program's administrative flexibility.

I would like to thank the Ranking Member of the Science Committee, Mr. HALL, the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Technology, Mrs. MORELLA, and the Ranking Member Mr. BARCIA for their work in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Small Business Committee, Mr. TALENT, and Ranking Member Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for working with the Science Committee.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2392 is a good bill and I urge all members to support its swift enactment.

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2392, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2392, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1999, CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2605, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of Monday, September 27, 1999, to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H. R. 2605) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes; that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived; and that the conference report be considered as read when called up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 168) recognizing the Foreign Service of the United States on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. RES. 168

Whereas the modern Foreign Service of the United States was established 75 years ago on May 24, 1924, with the enactment of the Rogers Act, Public Law 135 of the 68th Congress;

Whereas today some 10,300 men and women serve in the Foreign Service at home and abroad;

Whereas the diplomatic, consular, communications, trade, development, administrative, security, and other functions the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States perform are crucial to the United States national interest;

Whereas the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States, as well as their families, are constantly exposed to danger, even in times of peace, and many have died in the service of their country; and

Whereas it is appropriate to recognize the dedication of the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States and, in particular, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the interests of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Foreign Service of the United States and its achievements and contributions of the past 75 years;

(2) honors those members of the Foreign Service of the United States who have given their lives in the line of duty; and

(3) commends the generations of men and women who have served or are presently serving in the Foreign Service for their vital service to the Nation.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 168.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to bring before the body House Resolution 168, recognizing the Foreign Service of the United States on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, only when unrest or tragedy strikes abroad do many Americans become aware of the outstanding work of the thousands of men and women who serve in the Foreign Service of our Nation. The Members of the Foreign Service take responsibility for helping Americans in danger. As we found just last summer in Kenya and Tanzania, Foreign Service members and their families sometimes also become the victims of violence, along with other Americans stationed abroad along with their families. We need to do more, and we will do more to protect all the Americans we have asked to work for us overseas.

Indeed, six American ambassadors have been killed abroad over the past 31 years. And many in the rank and file of our Foreign Service and their families have tragically fallen victim to terror or to the more mundane hazards of life abroad in service to their Nation.

Every day these dedicated individuals stand ready to promote the interests of our Nation. They do this by carrying out tasks such as protecting the property of an American who dies overseas, reporting on political developments, screening potential entrants to the United States, promoting the sale of American goods, or securing American personnel and facilities overseas. They and their families often live in dangerous environments and are often separated from their extended families and friends.

At home, the men and women of the Foreign Service perform essential functions in the Departments of State, Commerce, and Agriculture, in the United States Information Agency, and in the Agency for International Development. Our modern Foreign Service was established by the Rogers Act of 1924. We are now celebrating its 75th anniversary year of its enactment. It is all together befitting at this time to

congratulate the men and women of the Foreign Service and to commemorate the significant sacrifices they have made in the service of our Nation.

Let me note that I appreciate the support of the cosponsors of this resolution, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking Democrat on our committee, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in voting for this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this resolution.

I would like to take this moment to personally thank the brave men and women who represent us on the front lines in our embassies and posts around the world and who, if particularly lucky and gifted, can climb their way to our most senior diplomatic posts in the State Department or in the White House.

Additionally, we have seen that, increasingly, to join the Foreign Service means a willingness to put one's life on the line in service to our country, because of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, individuals who disagree with our policy, or just plain madmen with a means to destroy. I commend all these individuals who care enough about the world and our place in it that they are willing to serve in posts from Australia to Zanzibar representing our country's interests.

Unfortunately, though, while I intend to vote for this measure, I chose not to cosponsor it because I requested that language regarding the treatment of black and minority Foreign Service officers be included in the bill. It is important to recognize how far we have come and to celebrate the good things; however, we should never purposely omit critical information about challenges yet unmet.

First of all, I can understand why Madeleine Albright's State Department would not want any mention of how minorities are faring in her State Department. A description in one word would be, poorly. After choosing to use scarce resources to fight rather than settle a lawsuit filed by black Foreign Service officers, the State Department has still not admitted having discriminated against black Foreign Service officers. At least the Department of Agriculture admitted having discriminated against black and minority farmers. I am saddened that Madeleine Albright's State Department will not admit such behavior.

Yet, after its reorganization, the State Department will have to contend

with two additional lawsuits filed by African Americans against the United States Information Agency and the Voice of America. These two lawsuits, *Brown versus Duffey/USIA* and *Dandridge versus USIA*, are representative of the paucity of the presence of black men and, moreover, their treatment once employed by the Voice of America. *Dandridge versus USIA* is still pending before the EEOC and also addresses the disparity of treatment in hiring and appropriations by Voice of America toward African American male employees.

Words cannot express how deeply saddened I am by this state of affairs. Everyone knows that women interested in international service had to file a lawsuit against the Government in order to get fair representation in the Foreign Service. After that lawsuit, the numbers of women rapidly improved, and we all worked hard to get Madeleine Albright into her historic position. Yet a woman, in charge of the State Department, is stalling on this important area of bringing minority representation up to where it should be.

America's foreign policy apparatus is supposed to discriminate against no one. That is why women from across this country filed two lawsuits, the now famous original Hartman case and the appellate Palmer case. The State Department has responded to the Hartman lawsuit, and now it has really improved the numbers of white women represented at all levels.

However, when one looks at the State Department's own numbers for their absorption of minorities into the Foreign Service, the shocking fact is that Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans are grossly underrepresented. And despite having filed a lawsuit, as white women did, black Foreign Service officers did not even get fair treatment with their lawsuit, with Madeleine Albright fighting it tooth and nail. Even as late as last year, yet another lawsuit has been filed against Madeleine Albright's Department of State. We have too few minorities serving right now as either ambassadors or deputy chiefs of mission.

Additionally, the seventh floor of the State Department building, from which this country's foreign policy is run, has historically, never, itself, had more than token minority representation. We have had precious few minorities in deputy assistant or assistant secretary positions. We have never had a minority serve as an under secretary or even as the public affairs spokesperson for the Department.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I recently accompanied the President on his trip to the United Nations. On that plane, with dozens of foreign policy advisers, the State Department had not one minority accompanying the President. Is this the picture that we really want to

paint to an increasingly shrinking world, that we are not willing to accept the best and brightest among our own citizens, even if they happen to be minorities?

I join my colleagues in recognizing the Foreign Service for achieving 75 years of service this year. However, I also recognize that the State Department has a long way to go before it sheds its nickname, "the last plantation." And at the rate it is going, it will be a long time indeed. Madam Speaker, I continue to be ready to work with the State Department to improve the figures that are submitted for the RECORD as follows:

#### DIVERSITY FACT SHEET—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Overall, African American men and women are 22.8% of the Department of State's workforce. While on the surface, this looks good, as always, the devil is in the details:

46% of all African Americans employed at the Department of State are concentrated in the lowest GS levels in the Department of State. Of the 3,466 African American men and women employed at the Department of State, 1,588 hold the positions of GS 10 to GS 2. These are certainly not the policy making positions within the Department of State.

Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians are worse off: Hispanics make up 3.9% of the overall Department of State workforce; Native Americans make up 1/2% of the workforce; and, Asians are 3.4% of the workforce. Thus, the numbers are even smaller when looking at the Foreign Service.

African Americans only hold 5% of White Collar jobs—management, policy and leadership positions. Hispanics hold 6.3% of all DOS white collar jobs; Native Americans hold 1% of DOS white collar jobs; and Asians hold 4.8% of all DOS white collar jobs.

The pattern is consistent: The higher up in DOS management you go, the less likely you are to find minorities, including women.

As late as January 20, 1998, law suits have continued to be filed against the Department of State. *Michael T. Johnson v. Madeleine Albright*, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State was filed on behalf of African American males complaining of employment discrimination.

"The Thomas Case" was filed on behalf of African American Foreign Service officers, and accused the Department of State of racial bias in hiring and promotions. The law suit was settled by a consent decree and DOS is currently implementing the details of the consent decree. In settling in this manner, DOS did not admit discriminating against black FSO and admitted no wrongdoing of any type in their hiring and/or promotional practice as related to African American DOS employees.

James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, also known as "The Hartman Case" (*Carolee Brady Hartman v. U.S. Department of State*) filed, on behalf of women Foreign Service officers, has been in litigation and various stages of settlement since 1977.

"The Palmer Case" (*Allison Palmer, et. al., v. James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State*), also fought by the Department of State, noted that while women needed to prove further allegations of discrimination in promotions, the information provided to the court by the Department of State, did not successfully rebut evidence of promotion discrimination by DOS based on sex.

Voice of America has 2 law suits alleging discrimination in hiring and promotions. Brown v. Duffey/USIA, was filed on behalf of U.S. born African Americans alleging dis-

crimination at VOA. This case is in the process of being settled.

Dandridge v. USIA was filed on behalf of 9 African American employees and has not

been certified as a class action lawsuit. It is currently pending before EEOC with no action taken thus-far-to-date by EEOC.

TABLE 2.—RACE/NATIONAL ORIGIN DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT BY PAYPLAN AND GRADE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1996; MEN AND WOMEN COMBINED

Agency—Department of State—pay plan and grade	Total number	Total minorities		Blacks		Hispanics		Asian or Pacific Islander		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Whites	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, all pay plans	15176	3466	22.8	2288	15.1	598	3.9	511	3.4	69	.5	1171.0	77.2
Total GS and related	13617	3246	23.8	2163	15.9	543	4.0	477	3.5	63	.5	1037.1	76.2
GS-02	17	9	52.9	8	47.1	1	5.9					8	47.1
GS-03	61	26	42.6	21	34.4	3	4.9	2	3.3			3.5	57.4
GS-04	194	110	56.7	82	42.3	13	6.7	12	6.2	3	1.5	8.4	43.4
GS-05	224	114	50.9	99	44.2	8	3.6	7	3.1			11.0	49.1
GS-06	242	166	68.6	146	60.3	7	2.9	10	4.1	3	1.2	7.6	31.4
GS-07	1052	419	39.8	343	32.6	30	2.9	43	4.1	3	.3	63.3	60.2
GS-08	862	297	34.5	225	26.1	39	4.5	30	3.5	3	.3	56.5	65.5
GS-09	1385	414	29.9	283	20.4	59	4.3	63	4.5	9	.6	97.1	70.1
GS-10	56	33	58.9	28	50.0	5	8.9					2.3	41.1
GS-11	2415	463	19.2	259	10.7	103	4.3	92	3.8	9	.4	195.2	80.8
GS-12	2501	511	20.4	316	12.6	99	4.0	86	3.4	10	.4	199.0	79.6
GS-13	789	175	22.2	128	16.2	24	3.0	20	2.5	3	.4	61.4	77.8
GS-14	2294	333	14.5	148	8.5	84	3.7	86	3.7	15	.7	196.1	85.5
GS-15	1525	176	11.5	77	5.0	68	4.5	26	1.7	5	.3	134.9	88.5
Average grade	11.2	9.9		8.4	11.2			10.8		11.1		11.6	
Senior pay levels	965	76	7.9	49	5.1	17	1.8	9	.9	1	.1	88.9	92.1
Other white collar	522	89	17.0	26	5.0	33	6.3	25	4.8	5	1.0	43.3	83.0
Total wage systems	72	55	76.4	50	69.4	5	6.9					1.1	23.6

\*Less than 0.05 percent.

APPENDIX I.—TABLES SHOWING REPRESENTATION LEVELS AND PROGRESS MADE BY SPECIFIC EEO GROUPS AT FOUR AGENCIES

Grade level	Number			Percent			Relative number		
	1984	1992	Change	1984	1992	Change	1984	1992	Change
Asian men	13	31	18	0.56	1.30	2.32	0.68	1.83	2.69
Asian women	8	19	11	0.35	0.80	2.29	0.42	1.12	2.67
Native American men	4	11	7	0.17	0.46	2.71	0.21	0.65	3.10
Native American women	0	2	2	0.00	0.08	(b)	0.00	0.12	(b)
Total (+)	2,306	2,388	82	100.00	99.99				

<sup>a</sup> Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>b</sup> The amount of change (increase or decrease) cannot be computed because there was no one (0.00) in that EEO group at that grade level in the base year (1984).

Source: OPM's CPDF.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I urge the State Department to change its ways.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. McKINNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I join the gentlewoman and the chairman of the committee in urging Members to support this legislation recognizing the Foreign Service of the United States on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

As one who benefits from the foreign service by rather extensive travel, pursuant to duties on the Committee on International Relations and now the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I, for one, am grateful to the employees around the world.

I would like to associate myself, however, with the remarks of the gentlewoman with reference to the need for increased minority hiring. That is a must and it simply must be done; and 75 years will not account for how long it should take.

Expediting businesspersons, expediting Congress people, expediting the military, all of these are some of the

duties that Foreign Service officers in this country and for this country perform. I, for one, rather than just stand here and compliment them, I would like to see to it that their pay, their pensions, and the facilities they work in meet the requirements of a Nation that has the standing that we do in the world.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, diplomacy is an instrument of power, essential for maintaining effective international relationships. It is a principal means through which the United States defends its interests, responds to crises, and achieves its international goals. The Department of State is the lead institution for the conduct of American diplomacy; a mission based on the role of the Secretary of State as the President's principal foreign policy adviser. The oil, which makes this machine run so well, is the Foreign Service.

Madam Speaker I rise in support of H. Res. 168. This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives recognizing the Foreign Service of the United States and its achievements and contributions of the past 75 years. Without these foot soldiers of diplomacy the United States' interests around the world would certainly not be advanced.

This resolution is fitting because it honors those members of the foreign service who have given their lives in service of this nation. We cannot afford to forget those men and women who have died in the line of duty in places like Kenya and Tanzania. Since its establishment, the Secretary of State has com-

memorated 186 American diplomats who have died in the line of duty. Likewise we cannot afford to forget the generations of men and women who have served or are presently serving this nation with vital contributions to the nation.

Among the services provided by the Foreign Service are the following:

Leads representation of the United States overseas and advocates U.S. policies for foreign governments and international organizations.

Coordinates and provides support for the international activities of U.S. agencies, official visits, and other diplomatic missions.

Conducts negotiations, concludes agreements, and supports U.S. participation in international negotiations of all types.

Coordinates and manages U.S. Government response to international crises of all types.

Assists U.S. business and protects and aids American citizens living or traveling abroad.

This resolution marks and commends the 75 years of service, which the Foreign Service has given to our nation. To the men and women of the Foreign Service, I commend you for your hard work, dedication, and distinguished service to the nation and I thank you and your family for all of the sacrifices you have made in the name of this country.

I urge my colleagues to overwhelmingly support this House Resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, this Member rises in strong support of H. Res. 168, a resolution honoring the United States Foreign Service on the occasion of its 75th

anniversary. The significance of the contribution of the Foreign Service to the security and well-being of the United States cannot be overstated. Foreign Service Officers are literally on the front line of the struggle to protect our country's values, ideals, prosperity, and security. Scores of American diplomats have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country as was tragically demonstrated most recently in the terrible toll taken by the terrorist bombings in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam. American diplomats today are every bit as vulnerable as members of the Armed Forces, and they are far more vulnerable to directed acts of terrorism. They deserve all the protection we can possibly provide.

In this context, this Member has been disturbed by the Administration's rather tepid response to the Crowe Commission report on embassy security. The Crowe Commission, this Member will remind his colleagues, called for \$1.4 billion in embassy security assistance each year for 10 years. Clearly, the United States has been remiss for many years in not taking stronger action to protect its diplomats and facilities abroad from terrorist attack. This body must do everything possible to rectify this problem as soon as possible, and adhering to the Crowe Commission guidelines is an important first step.

Madam Speaker, this Member would like to offer my warm congratulations to each and every Foreign Service Officer. This Member would note that the Pearson Fellowship program, which provides outstanding young Foreign Service Officers will temporary assignment to the legislative branch, has been a particularly effective tool to help this body better understand U.S. foreign policy.

Madam Speaker, this Member urges strong support for H. Res. 168.

□ 1530

Ms. MCKINNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 168.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT HAITI SHOULD CONDUCT FREE, FAIR, TRANSPARENT, AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 140) expressing the sense of the Congress that Haiti should conduct free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 140

Whereas René Preval was elected president of Haiti on December 17, 1995, and inaugurated on February 7, 1996;

Whereas a political impasse between President Preval and the Haitian Parliament over the past 2 years has stalled democratic development and contributed to the Haitian people's political disillusionment;

Whereas Haiti's economic development is stagnant, living conditions are deplorable, and democratic institutions have yet to become effective;

Whereas Haiti's political leaders propose free, fair, and transparent elections for local and national legislative bodies; and

Whereas Haiti's new independent Provisional Electoral Council has scheduled those elections for November and December 1999: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) commends the provisional Electoral Council of Haiti for its decision to hold elections for 19 senate seats, providing for a transparent resolution of the disputed 1997 elections;

(2) urges the Government of Haiti to actively engage in dialogue with all elements of Haitian society to further a self-sustainable democracy;

(3) encourages the Government and all political parties in Haiti to proceed toward conducting free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections as scheduled, in the presence of domestic and international observers, without pressure or interference;

(4) urges the Clinton Administration and the international community to continue to play a positive role in Haiti's economic and political development;

(5) urges the United Nations to provide appropriate technical support for the elections and to maximize the use of United Nations civilian police monitors of the CIVPOL mission during the election period;

(6) encourages the Clinton Administration and the international community to provide all appropriate assistance for the coming elections;

(7) encourages the Government of Haiti to adopt adequate security measures in preparation for the proposed elections;

(8) urges all elements of Haitian civil society, including the political leaders of Haiti, to publicly renounce violence and promote a climate of security; and

(9) urges the United States and other members of the international community to continue support toward a lasting and committed transition to democracy in Haiti.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 140.

When we marked up this resolution in the Committee on International Re-

lations, our main concern was that free and fair elections be held to meet the constitutional deadline of January 10 for installing a newly elected legislature. As matters now stand, this apparently will not happen. Although Haitian President René Preval cites concerns over the feasibility of the Provisional Electoral Council's calendar, he has in fact been delaying these critically important elections.

As long as there is an opportunity that Haiti can hold genuinely pluralistic elections, we should, as this resolution urges, be supportive. For example, because there is a politically diverse Provisional Electoral Council, a significant sector of the opposition favors elections for parliament and for local officials. I note, however, a disturbing absence of high-level attention in the White House and in the State Department to the unfolding electoral situation in Haiti. Our ambassador, Timothy Carney, deserves high level support from our administration.

I am deeply concerned by the serious problems that threaten these elections. President Preval failed to see that the elections were held last year, and this summer failed to sign the critically important electoral law for 1 month. And now President Preval has become hostile to the Electoral Council that he appointed.

As the election in Haiti nears, street violence threatens freedom of assembly and freedom of speech and may threaten the elections as well. Former President Aristide's Lavalas Family party has fomented recent violent disturbances, including an attack on a peaceful rally organized by business, religious and civic groups in Port-Au-Prince on May 31.

Rising common crime and specific acts of violence have awakened broad concerns regarding public safety. Most recently, on September 4, an explosive device was thrown at the Chamber of Commerce the day after the Chamber issued a call for nonviolence. And on September 5, shots were fired at an opposition leader by a trained gunman. Shots were also recently fired in front of an Electoral Council magistrate's home.

The Haitian National Police has yet to develop and make public a comprehensive plan to provide security during the forthcoming election. The Electoral Council faces significant logistical hurdles to provide critically important voter identification cards and to be able to meet the tight electoral calendar that it has established.

When I concurred with releasing funds to support these elections, it was with the understanding that if Haiti backs away from the transparent settlement of the disputed 1997 elections, or if the Provisional Electoral Council's independence and credibility by a broad spectrum of political parties is put into question, that U.S. technical assistance should end.